

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + At first plenary meeting of forty-seventh General Assembly session, its new President, Foreign Minister of Bulgaria, Stoyan Ganev, expresses hope that current session will develop and specify ways of further involving United Nations in solving conflict in former Yugoslavia.
- + Security Council authorizes enlargement of United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- + Secretary-General, in address at Dag Hammarskjold Luncheon, reviews his first Annual Report on Work of Organization to be released tomorrow.
- + General Assembly President, closing forty-sixth session, urges strengthened role for United Nations in international relations.
- + Cooperation rather than confrontation stressed by Secretary-General in message marking International Peace Day.

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Addressing the first meeting of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly this afternoon, its new President, Foreign Minister of Bulgaria, Stoyan Ganev, said it was natural to expect that this session would develop and specify the most appropriate ways of further involving the United Nations in the solution of the conflict in former Yugoslavia. Coordination between the United Nations peace-keeping operations and the other regional efforts was an important factor in ensuring positive results.

Mr. Ganev said that Bulgaria, as "one of the islands of stability in the turbulent Balkans", had found a civilized solution to ethnic problems which in neighbouring countries had given rise to dangerous conflicts with serious international consequences.

Efforts to solve regional conflict would remain high on the United Nations agenda, the new Assembly President said. The work and the decisions of the Assembly and the Security Council, as well as the energetic efforts of the Secretary-General, lay the foundation for effective action in the field of

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preventive diplomacy, peace-making, peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building.

Mr. Ganev said he anticipated Member States, during the general debate, to address the concepts and recommendations put forward by the Secretary-General in his "Agenda for Peace" report, with a view to adopting appropriate follow-up measures that would help establish new standards for efficient performance.

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The Security Council last night voted to enlarge the mandate and strength of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to provide protection for convoys transporting humanitarian aid and released detainees.

By last night's resolution, which was adopted by a vote of 12 in favour to none against, with three abstentions (China, India and Zimbabwe), the Council approved the Secretary-General's proposal to expand UNPROFOR with four or five infantry battalion groups allowing the United Nations peace-keepers to provide armed escort for the humanitarian convoys of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The expansion of the Force is to be carried out at no cost to the United Nations, as a result of offers of support from a number of States.

The representatives of China, India and Zimbabwe said they fully supported the recommendations of the Secretary-General. However, they could not support operative paragraph 2 of the text, linking the expansion of the mandate to the implementation of resolution 770 (1992), which authorized the use of all necessary means to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told journalists at the Dag Hammarskjöld Luncheon this afternoon that his first Annual Report on the Work of the Organization would be released tomorrow. In his report, he said he had reviewed the importance of the State as the fundamental entity of international relations. The United Nations Member States now numbered 179, which was a healthy development, he said, but cautioned that rapid change could put stress on the system.

Turning to the issue of regional associations between States, the Secretary-General said such associations could now play a greater role in dealing with problems in their regions, and a new partnership was possible between the World Organization and regional associations.

Discussing the importance of international law, the Secretary-General noted that more international law had come into being since the Second World War, though slowly and with many setbacks, than during the three previous

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persons returning from Ethiopia. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will undertake relief and recovery activities, giving priority to the restoration of essential basic services.

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It was confirmed today at Headquarters that a United Nations helicopter had crash-landed in the northern province of Uige in Angola on Saturday, 12 September. The accident took place in a sand storm shortly after take-off. The helicopter was funded by the European Economic Community (EEC) and assigned to the Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in support of the elections in Angola.

There were 24 persons on board, including seven personnel of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), four crew and 13 Angolan election officials. Nine people were injured and the Russian pilot and co-pilot were incapacitated.

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The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is \$20 million short of funds, according to the Agency's Commissioner-General, Ilter Turkmen. He told representatives of United Nations Member States in Vienna that the special funding was needed to carry out essential operations to improve the quality of life for Palestine refugees.

At the annual meeting of the Agency's Advisory Commission, held at the end of last week, Mr Turkmen noted that his appeal last November for \$25 million for the agency's emergency programmes - an appeal which was reissued in April - had yielded only \$6.7 million. He said "important activities" were on hold until the funding could be assured.

The UNRWA Advisory Commission, which consists of representatives of ten governments, said it was essential that the agency's projects and programmes be given the necessary means to improve the the situation of the refugees. The Commission called on existing donors to increase their contributions, and asked those not already contributing to start doing so.

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